

GOOD NEIGHBORLY NEWS

ISSUE 4

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PUBLICATION

FALL - 2007

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains:

Please distribute this newsletter to your block participants.

Don't forget to sign up for **e-mailed crime alerts**. To register, e-mail me at jsasw@ci.carlsbad.ca.us and get details.

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Crime Prevention Spec.
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Police Contacts:

Website
www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us

Emergency
9 1 1

Non-emergency
(760) 931-2197

Crime Statistic Hotline
(760) 931-2201

Other Crime Statistics
(760) 931-2279

**Police Watch
Commander**
(760) 931-2115

Traffic Unit
(760) 931-2106 2290

Narcotics Unit
(760) 931-2195

Records Division
(760) 931-2119

Detective Division
(760) 931-2145

Senior Volunteer Patrol
(760) 931-2214

Community Services
(760) 931-2177

Sign up for Wireless AMBER Alerts



The first three hours after a child is abducted are the most critical to recovery efforts. Wireless AMBER Alerts, an initiative of National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the wireless industry, have the potential to reach more than 242 million wireless subscribers with information to help bring abducted children home quickly and safely.

Wireless subscribers capable of receiving text messages and those whose providers participate in the initiative can sign up to receive free text message alerts in one of three easy ways:

1. Text AMBER followed by a space and five-digit ZIP code to AMBER (26237) (available for most eligible wireless subscribers);

2. Visit
www.wirelessambersalerts.org

3. Register on your carrier's Web site. These subscribers become the eyes and ears of law enforcement when a child has been abducted.



To date, AMBER Alerts have helped to safely recover more than 360 children. Join those who have already signed up for Wireless AMBER Alerts™ and help bring an abducted child home safely.

What is the Cyber Tip Line?

The **CyberTipline** is a reporting method for cases of child sexual

exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, molestation of children outside the family, sex tourism of children, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child.

Reports may be made 24-hours per day, 7 days per week online at **www.cybertipline.com** or by calling **1-800-843-5678**.

The Importance of Having a Good Photo of Your Child

One of the most important tools for law enforcement to use in the case of a missing child is an up-to-date photograph. Use the following tips.



The photograph should be:

1. Recent, "school portrait" quality.
2. Color, accurately depicted, head-and-shoulders with the face clearly seen.
3. A plain or solid background, not taken outside or including other people or pets.
4. A digitized form, on a compact disk, minimizing the time necessary to scan and edit.
6. The photograph should have space for accurate, narrative description useful to identify the child such as name, nickname, height, weight, sex, age, eye color, identifying marks, glasses, and braces.
7. The photograph should be updated at least every six months for children 6 years of age or younger and then once a year.
8. All copies of child's photograph and information should be maintained in an easily accessible place by the parents or guardian.
9. The photograph and data should not be stored in a public database.

The Crime Prevention Unit's Mission is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it. **Let's do it together!**

Are your friends or relatives likely targets of scam artists?

Keep an eye out for these six tip-offs:

1. Frequent calls during your visits from folks offering money-making opportunities or seeking charitable donations.
2. Lots of new, cheap stuff lying around. Look for items like watches, pens and pencils, small appliances, water filters from "order to win" or "receive a valuable prize" offers.
3. Secretive behavior regarding mail or phone calls.
4. Payments to unfamiliar entities or irregular withdrawals. These can show up as checks or wire transfers, and they are often for increasing amounts of money to out-of-state or unfamiliar companies.
5. New subscriptions to magazines they don't need or haven't received previously.
6. Financial troubles. Watch for a sudden inability to buy food or other necessities or pay bills.

If they are, encourage them to become part of the "do not call" list. Go to www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222.

Telemarketing Fraud Prevention Check-list



• Is the call before 8 am or after 9 pm?

All organizations that follow federal telemarketing guidelines must limit their calls to this 13-hour period.

• Has the caller fully identified the organization that he/she represents immediately after you answer?

• **Does the caller work for the organization itself or for a fund-raising firm?** Organizations that heed federal telemarketing guidelines should immediately identify themselves. Fundraising firms get a portion of your money. Contact the organization yourself and give directly to them for the best use of your funds.

• **What is the charitable purpose of the organization?** Is it registered with the state (with the Secretary of State, State Department of Justice or Attorney General)?



• **What percentage of its total income does the charity spend on its program?** Don't

settle for vague descriptions of the organization's activities that emphasize the problem without explaining what the charity is actually doing about it. Also, make sure that at least 50% to 60% of your donation will go toward actual charitable work—not fund-raising expenses. Then check it out on the California Attorney General's website. You can see their actual tax return.

• Is the caller offering a product, service or contest of some sort?

How much does the product or service cost?

• Is the sale final or nonrefundable?

• **Does the caller seek payment prior to delivering the product or service?** Hang up if the caller seeks payment prior to delivery of the product or service—or if the offer

does not come with a money-back guarantee.

• Does the caller seek cash?

Legitimate organizations do not seek cash payments via the phone.

• Will the caller send details of the charity or product/service in writing—and therefore give you time to carefully review the offer?

If you must act "right away" say, "no way." Legitimate organizations will respect your interest in taking time to review offers prior to making a decision. Don't be pushed into a bad decision.

Finally, if you want to give to a charity, buy a product or contract a service, make the call yourself. Use legitimate organizations you have already checked-out. It is difficult to know if it is fraud if an unknown person has contacted you with a pitch. Don't waste your time and possibly your money. Make the call yourself.

Light the Night

Remember the number one deterrent to crime is the ability to see and be seen. As daylight wanes, don't forget to adjust your timers and light-up your house. It is obvious that no one is home, if a house is standing dark.

Inside: Have lights on a timer that go on when it starts to get dark and go off when you normally go to bed. Put the family room light on a timer and other lights that go on and off during the evening showing activity.



Outside: Have a little bit of light all the way around the outside of your house. If someone has to stand in a light to tamper with a secured door or window, they are less likely to want to do it. Lights should be positioned in the eaves of the house to illuminate the walls, doors and windows. They should be on timer or light sensors. They should come on when it starts to get dark and go off when it starts to get light.

Inside or out, everyday should be the same whether you are at home or not.